

Bill Heads to President's Desk

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Senate last night passed a bill sponsored by U.S. Reps. Harry Mitchell and Jim Matheson to block the automatic Congressional pay raise for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011. The approval follows House passage on Tuesday of H.R. 5146, the Cancel the Pay Raise for Members of Congress in Fiscal Year 2011 Act, by a bipartisan vote of 402-15. The bill now heads to President Obama's desk.

"In these tough economic times, with unemployment so high and so many families struggling to make ends meet, I believe it would be unconscionable for Congress to give itself a raise," Mitchell said. "Raising Congressional pay at a time like this would be glaringly out of touch, and I am pleased that the Senate has joined the House in passing this legislation. The American people are not getting a raise this year. Neither should Congress."

Mitchell, who has led efforts to stop Congressional pay raises since taking office in 2007, introduced H.R. 4255, the Stop the Automatic Pay Raise for Members of Congress in FY2011 Act, along with Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas) late last year. It quickly gained broad bipartisan support, and as of this week, had 132 co-sponsors -- nearly a third of the members in the House. The National Taxpayers Union and Citizens Against Government Waste also endorsed H.R. 4255.

Last year, Mitchell and Paul successfully led efforts to block the FY 2010 pay raise after introducing similar legislation, H.R. 156, which garnered 118 bipartisan co-sponsors. As a result, members of Congress did not receive an anticipated \$4,700 raise in 2009, which has saved taxpayers approximately \$2.5 million. [Source: [The Hill](#), February 24, 2009]

Mitchell and Paul also introduced legislation to block the FY2009 pay raise, which, despite gaining 34 bipartisan cosponsors, did not reach the floor of the House for a vote. Mitchell offered a similar bill in 2007, H.R. 2934, to block the FY2008 pay raise, which attracted 29 co-sponsors.

For FY 2011, Members were scheduled to receive a 0.9 percent adjustment, which would

increase the base member salary by \$1,600. [Source: [Congressional Research Service](#) , April 16, 2010]

In 2008, when Mitchell received a pay raise over his objection, he donated his pay raise to Arizona charities. Mitchell did the same with his 2009 pay raise, most recently donating his pay raise to 17 local organizations. [Source: [The Arizona Republic](#) , March 10, 2010]